



Urban District Council of Cleckheaton.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year 1905

C. HAROLD DYER, M.D..

Medical Officer of Health.



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MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

31st
Dec.,
1905.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council of Cleckheaton.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you the Annual Report of Vital Statistics for the year 1905, together with that of Sanitary Administration.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.—The population, as estimated at the middle of the year, may be put at 12,795, an increase of 70 on the previous year. This population is distributed in the three wards as follows :—

Cleckheaton	...	...	...	10,445
Scholes	...	...	...	1,715
Oakenshaw	...	...	...	635

BIRTHS.—The total number of Births registered during the year was 278, the same number as in the preceding year. Of these infants 154 were males and 124 females. The total annual Birth Rate was 21·72, a decrease of ·12 on 1904. The rate for the whole of England and Wales was 27·2 per 1000, and the ratios of the past three years are as below :—

		Number.		Rate per 1000.
1903	...	279	...	22·04
1904	...	278	...	21·84
1905	...	278	...	21·72

The separate rates and numbers for each Ward are as follows :—

		Number.		Rate per 1000.		1904.
Cleckheaton	...	230	...	22·20	...	21·46
Scholes	...	36	...	20·99	...	26·39
Oakenshaw	...	12	...	18·89	...	15·87

ILLEGITIMACY.—The number of Illegitimate Births registered was 4, a decrease of 8 on the previous year. This number is equal to a per centage of all births of 1·43.

DEATHS.—The total number of Deaths registered during the year was 199. But of these 12 occurred in the North Bierley Joint Hospital due to Bradford patients, and one due to a Hunsworth patient. Inasmuch as 2 patients from the district died in Menston Asylum the corrected number becomes 188, a decrease of 12 for the year. Of these deaths 98 were due to males and 90 to females.

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The total annual Death Rate is equal to 14·53, a decrease of 1·18 on the preceding year. The rate for England and Wales for the same period is 15·2.

COMPARATIVE TABLE FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
14·87	14·33	15·89	13·41	14·77	16·93	13·34	12·88	15·71	14·53

The separate numbers and rates for each Ward are as follows :—

	Number.	Rate per 1000.	1904.
Cleckheaton	... 158 ...	15·03	... 15·30
Scholes	... 20 ...	11·66	... 19·35
Oakenshaw	... 10 ...	15·67	... 12·69

The fact will be noted that in reference to these general figures the Birth Rate (total) is identical with that of the preceding year, and as the year preceding that is substantially the same figure the previously declining Birth Rate would appear to have reached a point of arrest in that tendency. The Death Rate (total) is lower than that of England and Wales, but in this connection two factors have to be remembered, *i.e.*, that in the first place the figures for the nation naturally include the higher mortality of the large towns; and secondly, that with a low birth rate and a still lower death rate there is a tendency for more of the inhabitants of the district to be in age between the periods 5 to 55, and all statistics show that mortality is low between these extremes. There is, therefore, a tendency for the figure to appear better than it actually comes out when analysed. As to the Ward figures, some fluctuation is to be observed from year to year, but it may be pointed out that this tendency is frequent in statistics of small quantities, which are therefore of correspondingly less value.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The total number of Infantile Deaths registered, *i.e.*, of children under one year of age, was 38, a decrease of 6. This equals a per centage of all deaths of 20·21, a per centage of all births of 13·65, and a total annual Death Rate of 2·97. The Infantile Mortality is, therefore, 136·5, this being the rate per 1000 births as compared with 158·2 for last year, and with 128 for 1905 for England and Wales.

RATES FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS.

1903.	1904.	1905.
118·1 ...	158·2 ...	136·5

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It is very desirable to analyse these figures, and when this is done the following results appear :

Premature Birth and Deficient Vitality at Birth ...	14
Broncho-Pneumonia... ..	6
Diarrhœa	6
Meningitis	5
Convulsions from Teething	3
Tuberculosis	3
Intestinal Colic	1
Total ...	38

The first class is associated with causes located in the mother prior to birth of the infant, and sometimes long prior to that period altogether. These causes are highly common in industrial and artizan communities, and depend largely upon malnutrition from improper diet, close atmospheres and labouring life.

Bronchitis, Diarrhœa, Meningitis and Tuberculosis are now recognized as caused by germs which invade the system, chiefly under insanitary conditions, probably in some cases aided by a local predisposing cause such as chill or improper feeding. We may associate the Intestinal Colic case with these classes, and it then becomes apparent that during the past year there are only, amongst these 38 infants, the 3 cases of dentition which may not be strictly regarded as preventible disease, and these 3 may be more so under some circumstances than is superficially apparent. These facts will speak for themselves as to practical application.

Over one year and under five years of age the number of deaths was 12, a decrease of 7. This yields a per centage of all deaths of 6·38, a per centage of all births of 4·31, and a total annual Death Rate of 0·93.

The total number of deaths, therefore, of children under 5 years of age was 50, a decrease of 13. This number is equal to a per centage of all deaths of 26·57, to a per centage of all births of 17·98, and to a total annual Death Rate of 3·97, as against 4·95 in 1904.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF DEATHS AT ALL AGES.

Age. 0-1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-65	65 and upwards.
No. 38	12	8	14	59	57

SENILE MORTALITY.—The total number of deaths over 70 was 32, a decrease of 10. Of these 14 were males and 18 females, The combined ages equal 2423 years, or an average of 75·71. The oldest inhabitant who died was a female, aged 91 years.

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CAUSES OF DEATHS.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—From Zymotic diseases 32 deaths occurred, but 13 were due to other districts from patients in the North Bierley Joint Hospital. The corrected number therefore, becomes 19, an increase of 7. Diarrhœa accounts for 4 of this increase.

Disease.	No. of Deaths.	Per centage of all Deaths.	No. in 1903.	No. in 1904.	Death Rate for 1905.
Small Pox ...	0	0·00	0	0	0·00
Measles ...	0	0·00	0	4	0·00
Scarlet Fever ...	3	1·59	0	1	0·23
Diphtheria ...	3	1·59	0	0	0·23
Whooping Cough..	0	0·00	4	0	0·00
Enteric Fever ...	3	1·59	2	1	0·23
Diarrhœa ..	10	5·31	6	6	0·78
Total ...	19	10·08	12	12	1·47

These 19 deaths are equal to a per centage of all deaths of 10·10, and to a total annual Death Rate of 1·47. In 1904 the latter was 0·94. For the year 1905, the rate for England and Wales is 1·52.

MORTALITY FROM SOME OTHER DISEASES.

Disease.	No. of Deaths.	No. in 1903.	No. in 1904.	Per centage of all deaths.	Death rate for 1905.
Phthisis ...	19	17	26	10·10	1·47
Diseases of Respiratory Organs ...	27	35	36	14·6	2·11
Heart Disease ...	23	21	21	12·23	1·79
Bright's Disease ..	3	2	3	1·59	0·23
Influenza ...	2	1	1	1·06	0·15
Cancer ...	10	14	12	5·31	0·78
Totals ...	84	90	99	44·65	6·53

Of the Respiratory diseases, 15 were due to Bronchitis, 11 to Pneumonia and one to Dropsy of the Lung.

The number of Inquests held during the year was eight, as compared with six in 1904. In four cases a verdict of death from violence in some form was recorded, and in four cases one in accordance with natural causes.

Taken as a whole these figures of Vital Statistics in general are of average satisfactoriness.

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SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

In the Sanitary Department much work has been accomplished, figures dealing with which will be found appended.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The notifications of Infectious Disease received are not in total materially different from the preceding year, the figures being 103, against 99 in 1904. Scarlet Fever shews a decrease of three, as does Enteric Fever also ; Small Pox a decrease of one, Erysipelas a decrease of two, whilst Diphtheria shews an increase of 12.

THE CASES OF SMALL POX differ from those of the previous year in that there were less separate importations, although practically the same number of cases. All probably arose from two sources only : in the one case, infection contracted in a very mild form by a father at work and conveyed to his child, and in the second case from travelling on business. A local outbreak, extending to 15 cases, was probably traceable in the first place to one of these sources, but here the earlier cases were not recognized, and it was not until after infection had existed for three weeks that information received led to enquiry, and enquiry to discovery. That the results were not more disastrous was highly fortunate, as the cases came in with such rapidity for many days that an extensive epidemic appeared probable. Thorough disinfection was carried out and re-vaccination in many cases, and all contacts were kept under strict observation and removed upon the first definite symptoms. By April 9th therefore the last case was notified, and the hospital closed, after discharge of the last patient on May 16th. Experience proves that Small Pox tends to recur every 10 years or so in an Epidemic, and aggravated Epidemics such as that spreading over the country from 1902, every 30 years. If I cannot predict, therefore, a permanent immunity of the district from this objectionable disease, I may at least express the hope that the normal freedom period may be enjoyed. The Germans who adopt re-vaccination have no Small Pox Epidemics and no Small Pox Hospitals.

It may be remarked that an outbreak of Chicken Pox, as sometimes happens, occurred whilst Small Pox was prevalent. It was in my opinion desirable to run no risks from confusion of diagnosis. An advisory certificate was therefore given for closure of the British School for three weeks. I think it should be a principle of action very clearly recognized by all having responsibility under the Education Board that though a Medical Officer of Health, if he be wise, will give due weight to any considerations bearing on interference with school attendance by reason of prevalence of Infectious Disease, his duties are primarily and essentially associated with the need of preventing the spread of such disease.

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DIPHTHERIA was more prevalent than at any time in my recollection, and a special report has been submitted. The first case was probably contracted at the sea-side about the feast-time, and other cases no doubt in some insidious way were infected. It has to be remembered that this disease has a tendency to be conveyed in ways that are irregular and often escape notice (transference by lower animals may be given as one.) The outbreaks occurred in October, November and December. Damp weather is especially favourable to its development.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH have been present from time to time, but in less marked degree than the preceeding year.

DISTRIBUTION AND COMPARATIVE RECORD FOR THE
PAST TWO YEARS.

Ward.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Small Pox	Erysipelas	Diphtheria
Cleckheaton...	45(1904-39)	5(1904 - 7)	18(1904-14)	11(1904-11)	11(1904 - 1)
Scholes ...	4(„ 1)	1(„ 1)	2(„ 5)	1(„ 2)	2(„ 0)
Oakenshaw ...	2(„ 14)	0(„ 1)	0(„ 2)	0(„ 1)	0(„ 0)
Totals ...	51(1904-54)	6(1904-9)	20(1904-21)	12(1904-14)	13(1904 - 1)

TABLE OF CASES SENT TO HOSPITAL.

Ward.	Scarlet Fever.	Small Pox.	Enteric Fever.	Diphtheria.
Cleckheaton ...	43	18	2	9
Scholes ...	3	2	1	1
Oakenshaw ...	2	0	0	0
Total ...	48	20	3	10

The 12 Erysipelas and 1 Puerperal Fever cases, the latter of which occurred in Scholes, were not of course eligible for removal. Of the remaining 90, there were removed 81, or 90%.

REMOVAL PER CENTAGE FOR PAST THREE YEARS.

1903 ... 93.63% 1904 ... 87% 1905 ... 90%

No great difficulty, it will therefore be seen, exists in getting the cases removed.

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HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The North Bierley Hospital has proved equal to all requirements.

The Small Pox Hospital, which was open at the end of last year, was closed after discharge of the last patient on Jan. 9th, but had to be reopened the following day. During 1905 there were treated in it 20 cases from Cleckheaton, 4 from Birstal, and 1 from Gomersal by arrangement with these Sanitary Authorities; making a total of 70 cases treated since the opening of the hospital in 1903, without fatality. The hospital was finally closed on May 16, having been open 136 days in the year. It has been kept in a state of readiness for emergency, and some little improvements effected, but I trust the hospital may now become merely an insurance against remote and possibly non-appearing calamity.

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS.—During the years 17 specimens were forwarded to the West Riding Laboratory at Wakefield, viz.:—Blood for Enteric Fever, 4; Sputum for Phthisis, 6; Throat Secretion for Diphtheria, 7.

VACCINATION.—By the courtesy of the Vaccination Officer I have been enabled to tabulate the following figures. It should be remembered that the figures always improve after the date of the Medical Officer's Annual Report inasmuch as vaccination is not always an immediately performed operation.

Infants Registered in 1905	...	...	...	278
„ Vaccinated at end of year...	...	...	...	158
„ Deceased prior to possibility of Vaccination	...	...	...	21
Postponements, Removals and Unvaccinated	...	...	...	97
Certificates of Conscientious Objections obtained	...	...	...	2

From these figures it appears that the per centage of children living vaccinated was 61·47%, and that of “Conscientious Objection” 0·72%.

FIGURES FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS.

	Vaccinated.	Certificate of Conscientious Objections.
1903 ...	74·70 per cent.	2·37 per cent.
1904 ...	64·63 „	3·74 „
1905 ...	61·47 „	0·72 „

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.—Forty-seven new houses have been certified for occupation during the year. Of these 6 have been of the villa type and 41 of the cottage-house type. All have, of course, been strictly according to Bye-Laws.

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WATER SUPPLY.—The quality of the water supply from the Bradford Corporation has been good and indicated no action upon lead. The quantity has been ample. A dry summer up to August appeared to threaten otherwise, but in that month wet weather ensued, and no limitation of supply was experienced.

In such times of heavy rain after drought impurities are apt to be washed down from the gathering grounds, and attention may be called to the fact that one cause of Diarrhœa of summer would be cut off if, in August and July at least, all drinking water were boiled.

SMOKE NUISANCE.—Some trouble from this cause is unavoidable in a manufacturing district, but attention of factory owners should be steadily directed to the desirability of limiting this nuisance. In the case of one large factory I am glad to report that alterations carried out have led to a marked improvement.

SEWERAGE.—The District is well supplied with an efficient modern sewerage system. In the main, treatment within the district is obviated by arrangement with a neighbouring authority. The Sewage of the Scholes ward has continued to be treated satisfactorily by land irrigation, which often proves very adequate for small areas.

The Refuse Destructor has done good work. Figures as to loads of refuse carted there will be found in the Nuisance Inspector's report. From Scholes ward all solid refuse has been carted to farmers' land. In Oakenshaw ward some has been so dealt with and part led to the tip which is the only one in existence in the District.

It is desirable that the water carriage system should receive development. Experience proves that towns adopting such system entirely have less mortality from some diseases.

The system of Scavenging carried out by the Council's staff of men has been satisfactory.

FACTORY ACT ADMINISTRATION.—Appended are figures showing details of the administration of this act.

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METEOROLOGY.—The winter was not especially severe, and the summer was dry and sunny up to August as previously stated. After that date the weather was wet and broken for a while. The rainfall it will be observed from appended figures, was lighter than in 1904.

RAINFALL FOR PAST TWO YEARS.

TEMPERATURE.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Degrees Fahrenheit.			
			1905.		1904.	
			Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.
January ..	1.25 ins.	2.22 ins.	50	23	49	28
February ..	1.10 „	4.60 „	53	27	48	24
March	2.70 „	2.40 „	52	29	56	24
April	2.25 „	1.48 „	64	26	58	36
May	1.35 „	3.00 „	78	36	70	36
June	2.01 „	0.95 „	90	42	72	38
July	1.35 „	2.75 „	75	47	78	46
August	3.98 „	3.35 „	74	44	76	42
September ..	1.40 „	0.54 „	64	36	74	38
October	1.45 „	0.30 „	60	30	58	30
November ...	3.25 „	1.52 „	50	28	52	24
December ...	.50 „	1.64 „	48	28	57	23
Total	22.59 ins.	24.75 ins.				

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD.—31 Interments have taken place in unconsecrated ground at the Cemetery in Whitehall Road, and seven in the ground consecrated by the Bishop of the Diocese at the ceremony in which the Council co-operated in October.

HORSE AMBULANCE.—The Horse Ambulance, which continues to be much appreciated, has been used on 7 occasions for accidents, and 11 for invalids : 18 in all.

MORTUARY.—The Mortuary has been utilized on 3 occasions, on 2 of which post-mortem examinations were held.

SANITARY WORK.—The appended details for which I am indebted to the Annual Report of the Nuisance Inspector are of interest.

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and HOMEWORK,****1.—INSPECTION.***Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances*

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries).	141	Nil.	Nil.
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	86	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces	20	Nil.	Nil.
Homeworkers' Premises ..	None existing.	Nil.	Nil.
Total	247	Nil.	Nil.

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2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prose- cutions.
	Found.	Remedi'd	Rcferred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health</i>				
<i>Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness				
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of Drainage of floors				
Sanitary accommodations				
Insufficient				
Unsuitable or defective .	3	1		
Not separate for sexes ..				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Work-</i>				
<i>shop Act</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground				
bakehouse (S. 101)				
Breach of special sanitary require-				
ments for bakehouses (SS. 97 to				
100)				
Failure as regards lists of out-				
workers (S. 107)				
Giving out work to be done in				
premises which are :—				
Unwholesome (S. 108) ..				
Infected (S. 110)				
Allowing wearing apparel to be				
made in premises infected by				
scarlet fever or smallpox S. 109).				
Other offences				
Total	3	1		

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3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133)	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors remediable under the Public Health Act, but not under the Factory Act (S. 5) :—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors	
Other	
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :—	
In use during 1904	Nil.
Certificates granted :—	
In 1905	Nil.
In use at the end of 1905	Nil.
Homework :	Number of
<i>Lists of Outworkers</i> :—	Lists. Outworkers.
Lists received	
Addresses of out-workers :—	
Forwarded to other Authorities	
Received from other Authorities	
<i>Homework in unwholesome or infected premises</i> :—	Wearing Apparel. Other.
Notices prohibiting homework in unwholesome premises (S. 108)	
Cases of infectious disease notified in home-workers' premises	
Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises (S. 110)	
Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of 1905	89
Bakehouses	15
Total number of workshops on register	104

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Class of Building.	No.	Sanitary Condition.
Common Lodging Houses	0	
District Council's Slaughterhouse...	1	Good : properly conducted
Private Slaughterhouses	10	do. do.
Workshops	86	Cleanly : not overcrowded
Workplaces	20	do. do.
Bakehouses	15	Clean : orderly
Fried Fish Shops	13	do. do.
Cowsheds	32	Some overcrowded
Offensive	1	Well conducted

INSPECTION WORK.

Houses Inspected	130
Factories	247
Privy Middens removed	56
Earth Closets erected	3
Water Closets do.	32
Waste Water Closets erected	2
Drains Flushed (using 111,000 gallons of water) ...	167
Nuisances remedied	35
Openings to Drains Trapped	23
Air Shafts erected	18

This is the last occasion on which it will be my privilege to submit an annual report, and it may perhaps be of interest to recall some of the developments which the Council's enterprize has ensured to the District during the period of the nearly 10 years which represents my holding of the office of Medical Officer of Health, and therefore of Official cognizance of such matters.

During this period the Sewerage of the District has been developed and improved on modern lines ; the Scavenging, formerly in the hands of Contractors, has been undertaken by the Council, much to the public advantage ; the North Bierley Joint Hospital has been extended ; an efficient Refuse Destructor has been erected, and an extensive plant for generation & supply of Electric Light and Power has been installed ; by the provision of the large New Cemetery, accommodation has been provided which I trust may supply the District's needs for a very long time ; a Hospital has been erected for the treatment of Small Pox ; a Mortuary for use in case of necessity ; whilst private generosity has given the Horse Ambulance to the town.

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Besides these developments much of course has been accomplished in the general path of sanitary improvement, and I may, perhaps, in retiring from office with regret, be permitted to congratulate the Council and, through the Council, the ratepayers of the district upon its present advantageous position. This, I venture to say, will compare favourably with most towns of similar size and rateable value, and must be a source of satisfaction to those who have been responsible for its local government during the period alluded to.

I am, Gentlemen,

Obediently yours,

C. HAROLD DYER, M.D.,

*Late Medical Officer of Health to the
Cleckheaton Urban District Council.*

ILKLEY,

Jan. 25th, 1906.

